

DODFORD WITH GRAFTON PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the meeting of Dodford with Grafton Parish Council held on Thursday 13 November 2014 in Dodford Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Vicky Churchill, Rachel Jennings and Alwyn Rea (Chairman)

In attendance: Clerk Kay Stone and one member of the public

1. Apologies

Cllrs Richard Scott and David Valentine, gave their apologies, reasons for which were accepted

2. Declarations of interest

- i. None
- ii. Cllrs Jennings and Rea – item 9

The meeting was adjourned for members of the public to raise matters of interest / items for the next agenda:

- i. Crack in Priory Road by Hawthorn Cottage could be a water pipe leak
- ii. Lengthsman and Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) had cleared leaves in Priory Road

The meeting was reconvened as follows:

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 23 October 2014

Approval of the Minutes was proposed by Cllr Churchill and seconded by Cllr Rea after which they were signed by the Chairman as being a true record.

4. Reports

- i. The November report received from County Councillor Sheila Blagg had been received and already circulated to Parish Councillors. Copies were available at the meeting for members of the public.
- ii. No report received from District Councillor Brian Lewis.
- iii. The Clerk reported that:
 - a. The poppy seed packets had been purchased and after discussion on possible places for the seeds to be scattered the Clerk was asked to put a piece in the next Parish Magazine and to write to the Church for suggestions where they could be scattered.
 - b. Bournheath Parish Council has a new notice board at the top of Yarnold Lane and is happy for Dodford with Grafton Parish Council to use it. The Clerk confirmed she had spoken with the Chairman of Bournheath PC and they are also happy for the Village Hall Committee to use it. This information has been passed on to the Village Hall Committee Secretary.

5. Planning

- i. BDC have granted permission for the alteration to existing garage at Holly Cottage, Woodcote Lane and for a proposed garage at Parkhill, Monsieus Hall Lane.

6. Dodford Inn

BDC Legal team has said legislation does give an exemption if the asset of community value is being sold as a going concern. As the asset would then remain in use as one of community

value there is no requirement for the legislation / moratorium to be activated. If the pub is closed down and then put up for sale then the expression of interest / moratorium would commence. The Clerk was asked to go back to BDC questioning the advice given as the Parish Council is concerned that if the Dodford Inn is sold as a going concern and the new owners decide not to operate the building as a pub then the community have no say, which the Parish Council feels does not protect community assets. The Clerk was also asked to put a piece in the next Parish Magazine inviting residents to attend the December meeting to make their representations. The meeting will commence at 7.00pm allowing an hour for the open discussion.

7. Highways and footpaths updates

- i. Speeding on the A448 – The Clerk is still to have a site meeting with WCC Highways
- ii. Priory Road Flooding – no further update from North Worcestershire Water Management
- iii. HGV Signage for Niblets Hill – The Clerk is still to have a site meeting with WCC Highways.
- iv. Signage for dead end on Woodland Road - The Clerk is still to have a site meeting with WCC Highways
- v. M5 Junction 4 pinch point works are on schedule and there will be a closure of one lane on the island for approximately 16 weeks from early to December.

8. 2014/2015 Council Tax Grant

After discussion about the possibility of an additional bench at the corner of Priory Road and Warbage Lane the Clerk offered to contact the Clerk at Bournheath Parish Council to ascertain the cost of their new bench made from recycled tyres together with the cost to secure the bench.

9. Grants for 2014/2015

This item deferred to December meeting.

10. Finance

- i. It was proposed by Cllr Rea, seconded by Cllr Jennings and approved that the Clerk should seek to have the laptop repaired and if unrepairable then the Clerk was given authority to purchase a new laptop.
- ii. The Clerk presented her report on the budget for 2015/2016 and was asked to advise the Parish Council of the percentage of increase in Council Tax it will mean to residents if the Parish Council increases the Precept. The budget to be further discussed at the December meeting.
- iii. Deposit account as at 29 October 2014 - £13,155.70
Current account as at 29 October 2014 - £406.49
Payments - Acceptance proposed by Cllr Churchill and seconded by Cllr Jennings:
 - a. Clerk's salary - £285.69
 - b. Expenses - £66.92 (Use of telephone and internet line £5; Storage £5; Travel 67 miles @ 45p/mile £30.15; Stationery £8.77 and purchase of poppy seeds £18.00)
 - c. HMRC - £71.40
 - d. Allen Farnsworth (Lengthsman duties for October) - £192.00
 - e. Bromsgrove District Council – printing of Christmas newsletters - £35.30

14. Councillor co-option

No applications received.

15. Correspondence received – for information

Items of correspondence received since the last meeting were noted.

16. Councillors items

- i. Cllr Churchill gave a report on a CALC Area Meeting where MP Sajid Javid had spoken

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Signed.....Chairman